

California Department of Veterans Affairs



NEWS RELEASE

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CDVA SUPPORTED BILL INTRODUCED IN CONGRESS TO PROVIDE VETERANS OF RECENT CONFLICTS WITH LOW INTEREST HOME LOANS

SACRAMENTO – June 21, 2005 – United States Congressmen Paul Ryan (WI-R) and Wally Herger (CA-R), introduced H.R. 2952, the “American Veterans Homeownership Act of 2005” on June 16, 2005, which provides Alaska, California, Oregon, Texas and Wisconsin the authority to issue tax-exempt Qualified Veterans Mortgage Bonds (QVMBs) to finance low interest home mortgage loans for veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, Kosovo, Bosnia, Haiti, Somalia, and the Persian Gulf War.

“Many Californians, including Governor Schwarzenegger, State Legislators, and veterans organizations have united in support of this legislation. With the high cost of housing in California today it is even more important than ever that today’s recent veterans are eligible for the same benefits as veterans of past wars,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Tom Johnson. “We are grateful to Congressmen Ryan and Herger for introducing this critical bill, and we encourage every member of Congress to co-sponsor and support this legislation that helps our veterans.”

Under current law, the states of Alaska, California, Oregon, Texas and Wisconsin have the ability to issue tax-exempt bonds, the proceeds of which are used to finance mortgage loans to veterans. Mortgage loans made with the proceeds of these bonds can be made only to veterans who served on active duty before 1977, and who applied for the financing within 30 years of release from active service. As a result, veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, Kosovo, Bosnia, Haiti, Somalia and the 1991 Persian Gulf War are NOT eligible for a QVMB-financed state veterans’ home mortgage loan in these States.

The “American Veterans Homeownership Act of 2005” would repeal the requirement that veterans receiving loans financed with veterans bonds must have served before 1977 and would provide new State limits for these bonds.

The California Department of Veterans Affairs urges all veterans to contact their members of Congress to urge support for this measure.

“Last year, 41 members of the California Congressional Delegation and both Senators signed on to support a similar measure. This year we would like to see all 53 members backing this important measure that shows our collective appreciation for the sacrifice and service of our newer veterans,” concluded Johnson.

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